

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**May 10, 2022**

### **SUBJECT:**

Head Start / Early Head Start 2022-2023 Selection Criteria Revision

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The school district was approved for a five-year Head Start/Early Head Start grant in May of 2020, and the 5-year project period began on July 1, 2020, and extends through June 30, 2025. Governing bodies have a legal and fiscal responsibility to administer and oversee the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The governing body is responsible for activities specified in section 642(c)(1)(E) of the Head Start Act. Based on community needs, the grant program may need to be modified, and board approval will be sought for these changes.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

The Office of Head Start under the revisions to the Head Start Act (2007) require that Head Start grantees establish and implement outreach and enrollment policies and procedures that ensure the agency is meeting the needs of income-eligible children as well as foster and homeless families prior to serving the children whose families exceed the income poverty guidelines. Data-driven decisions based on the assessment of community trends, needs, and challenges for HS eligible families show the following: 1) an increased number of families receiving SNAP/WIC benefits; 2) an increased number of children being raised by grandparents and other kinship care arrangements; 3) an increase in the rate of substance abuse across both counties; 4) ELL children/children with language barriers are more likely to fall behind than those children without language barriers. Students who become fully fluent in multiple languages generally perform better academically. Dual Language instruction and programs have been associated with improved cognitive abilities, positive influences on achievement in other disciplines, and higher achievement test scores in reading and math; 5) the incarceration rates in Aiken/Barnwell and SC overall have increased, and the children/families dealing with incarceration are more likely to exhibit low self-esteem, depression, emotional withdrawal from friends and family, and inappropriate or disruptive behavior at home and in school, and they are at increased risk of future delinquency and/or criminal behavior.

Based on the information above, administration recommends the following categories and points are added to the selection criteria: 10 points for families receiving SNAP/WIC benefits, providing kinship care, with language barriers, and substance abuse issues; 20 points for families dealing with incarceration.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve changes to selection criteria

### **PREPARED BY:**

Jeanie Glover  
Shadie Hall  
Krystal Cansler